

17. (Amended) An isolated polypeptide having a molecular weight between 180 kD and 100 kD as determined by SDS-PAGE and comprising the amino acid sequence AAGGILHLELLV (SEQ ID NO: 1).

18. (Amended) An isolated polypeptide according to claim 14, wherein said polypeptide further comprises the amino acid sequence AVGPDVFQAHQEDTERYVLTNLNIGAELLRDPSLGAQFRVHLVKMVILTEPEGAPNITANLTSSL SVCGWSQTINPEDDTPGHADLVLYITRFDLELPDGNRQVRGVTQLGGACSPWWSCLITEDTGFDLGVTI (SEQ ID NO: 15) directly following the amino acid sequence AAGGILHLELLV (SEQ ID NO: 1).

26. (Amended) A composition comprising a polypeptide which comprises the sequence AAGGILHLELLV (SEQ ID NO: 1).

28. (Amended) A method of purifying von Willebrand factor comprising contacting a solution containing von Willebrand factor with a polypeptide substrate comprising the amino acid sequence AAGGILHLELLV (SEQ ID NO: 1) under conditions sufficient to bind von Willebrand factor to the substrate.

30. (Amended) An isolated polypeptide having vWF protease activity wherein said polypeptide comprises the amino acid sequence AAGGILHLELLVAVGPDVFQAHQEDTERYVLTNLNIGAELLRDPSLGAQFRVHLVKMVILTEPEG APNITANLTSSLLSVCGWSQTINPEDDTPGHADLVLYITRFDLELPDGNRQVRGVTQLGGACSPWWSCLITEDTGFDLGVTI (SEQ ID NO 4).

IN THE ABSTRACT:

The invention relates to vWF cleaving entities having a molecular weight of 180 kD, 170 kD, 160 kD, 120 kD or 110 kD and an N-terminal amino acid sequence of AAGGILHLELLV (SEQ ID NO: 1), vWF cleaving complexes and methods for their production.